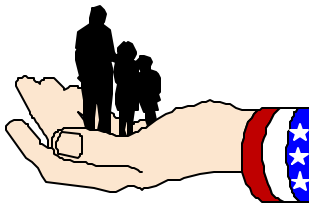


GOAL 2: IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Each person, regardless of age, sex, physical ability, or racial/ethnic background, should have the opportunity to lead an economically and socially productive life. With its partners, HHS supports strategies that create opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to be economically and socially productive.



**TANF WORK
PARTICIPATION
RATES FOR FY 1998**

All Family Rates	Two-Parent Family Rates
35.4%	42.3%

Source: ACF Data & Statistics

❖ **We worked to increase the economic independence of families on welfare.**

Under the *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families* (TANF) program, whose net cost was \$15.475 billion in FY 1999, states have extensive flexibility in designing programs that promote work, responsibility, and self-sufficiency. Almost every state requires personal responsibility contracts and 32 states expect clients to work within six months. In August 1999, data was released that showed all 50 states and the District of Columbia met the overall work participation rates for all families in 1998 — the first full year of the new welfare reform law. Welfare caseloads are at their lowest level since 1967 and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since 1994. Nationwide the rolls have fallen by 49 percent and from 14.2 million to 6.9 million.

Twenty-seven states received high performance bonuses totaling \$200 million for excellent performance in moving welfare recipients into jobs. The performance bonus program was authorized by law. The states placed 1.3 million welfare recipients into new jobs in 1998. Eighty percent of working recipients remained employed for an average of three months. In addition, their earnings rose from \$2,100 in the first quarter of employment to \$2,650 in the third. A recent General Accounting Office report found that between 63 percent and 87 percent of adults have worked since leaving the welfare rolls. These results are similar to state studies funded by HHS.

States also reported a new record percentage of parents on welfare that are working. Data released in 1999 shows that 35 percent of all adult welfare recipients were working, looking for employment or enrolled in work preparation activities in 1998. The percentage of employed recipients reached an all-time high at 23 percent compared to less than 7 percent in 1992 and 13 percent in 1997. Similarly, the proportion of recipients who were working, including employment, work experience, and community service reached 27 percent which is nearly a fourfold increase over the 7 percent recorded in 1992.

ACF's goal under the National Performance Review's (NPR) "High Impact Agency" initiative was to increase self-sufficiency for low-income families by moving one million welfare recipients into new employment by 2000. In FY 1999 ACF reported that the goal was achieved earlier than anticipated with 46 states reporting 1.3 million job entries for FY 1998.

CHANGE IN WELFARE CASELOADS SINCE ENACTMENT OF NEW WELFARE LAW

Total TANF Families and Recipients
(in thousands)

	Aug-96	June-99	Percent Change
Families	4,415	2,536	- 43%
1,879,000 fewer families			
Recipient s	12,241	6,889	- 44%
5,352,000 fewer recipients			

Source: ACF Data & Statistics

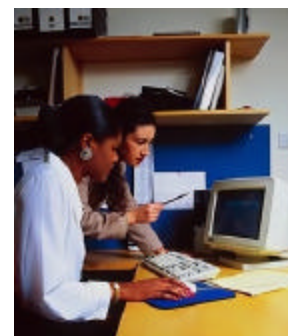


*TANF helps to increase
the self-efficiency for
low-income families.*



As part of the same NPR initiative and consistent with ACF's *child welfare* activities and the Administration's adoption goal for 2001, ACF adopted a goal of increasing the number of children who are adopted from the public foster care system to 51,000 by FY 2001. Adoptions have increased from 28,000 in FY 1996 to 36,000 in FY 1998. In 1999 ACF awarded \$20 million in the first adoption bonuses to 35 states that had increased the number of children adopted from foster care.

Child Care and Development fund grantees have many efforts underway to address affordability and access to child care for low-income families. ACF work continues in partnership with states to increase and identify the number of children served by the grants. On



Goal: (ACF) Increase parental responsibility.
FY 1999 Target: Collect \$16.3 billion in child support collections.
FY 1999 Actual: \$15.5 billion (preliminary)
Trend: FY 1996: \$11.9 billion collected, FY 1997: \$13.38 billion collected, FY 1998: \$14.3 billion collected.



Head Start helps to give children a good foundation for learning.

October 19, 1999 the Secretary of HHS released a report indicating that nationally, in an average month of 1998, 1.5 million low and moderate-income children eligible for this grant assistance from states received help through the program.

❖ **We helped to increase the financial and emotional resources available to children from their noncustodial parents.**

The *Child Support Enforcement Program* (CSE) obtains support for children by locating parents, establishing paternity, and establishing and enforcing support orders. The national employment database, known as the National Directory of New Hires, more than doubled its success in its first year by matching selected state cases and found over 2.8 million delinquent parents.

Paternities establishment rose to 1.5 million in 1998, a more than three-fold increase from 516,000 in 1992. The Passport Denial program collected more than \$2.25 million in lump sum child support payments and is currently denying 30-40 passports to delinquent parents per day.



❖ **We supported the improvement of the healthy development and learning readiness of preschool children.**

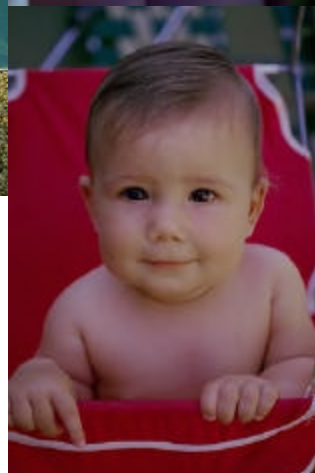
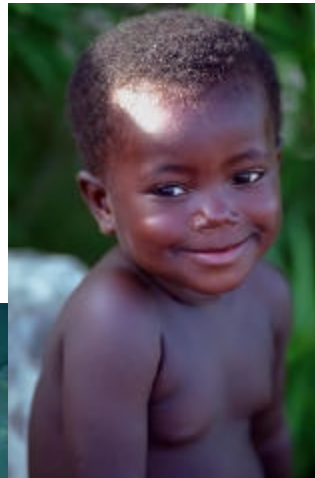
Head Start is the nation's premier early childhood development program for low-income children and families. Head Start has grown from 714,000 in 1993 to 835,000 children in FY 1999 who were enrolled in programs to enhance children's growth and development; strengthen families, and provide children's educational services.

Head Start has begun to assess how program efforts influence the development of emergent literacy, numeracy, and cognitive skills; gross and fine motor skills; and social skills of participating children through its Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES). Baseline data collected from 1997-1999 indicate that children experienced improvement in all of these dimensions. For example, the data shows that Head Start helps children improve their vocabulary skills during both their Head Start year and kindergarten years at a faster rate than the average rate of improvement for children of all income levels. ACF is establishing performance goals to assess learning development using the measurement scales employed for the FACES.

Head Start also emphasizes the importance of the early identification of health problems. Every child is involved in a comprehensive health program, which includes immunizations, medical, dental, and mental health, and nutritional services. ACF wants to assure that Head Start children are able to receive medical treatment when they are identified as needing medical services.

In FY 1999, ACF was just short of its goal of 88 percent, with 87 percent of Head Start children receiving care after being identified as needing services. It is important to bear in mind that Head Start has a predictable turnover rate, that is, children leave the program during its course for various reasons and so while a referral may have been made programs may not have follow up information for those children. Nevertheless, Head Start has chosen to increase targets of performance in future years.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index is a national economic indicator of customer satisfaction with the quality of goods and services available to household consumers in the United States. In December 1999 the partners that produce the ACSI released the result of customer evaluations of various federal agency services and products. The parents of Head Start students rated the program 87 out of 100 points; the highest rating received for the federal programs evaluated.



Children are our Nation's future.